

SAUDI ARABIA | IN FOCUS

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INFORMATION OFFICE OF
THE ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA IN WASHINGTON, DC

MAY 2, 2011

COUNTERTERRORISM

Killing bin Laden should boost global counterterrorism efforts

In a statement on May 2, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expressed hope that the elimination of Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden will support international efforts to combat terrorism and to dismantle Al-Qaeda's cells, including the elimination of the deviant thought that stands behind terrorism and extremism. The people of Saudi Arabia have been among those most targeted by this terrorist organization through its crimes, the killing of the innocent people—which is forbidden by Allah—and the destabilization of the security and stability of the society, it added.

King Abdullah sends condolences to King of Morocco

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz has sent a cable to King Mohammed VI of Morocco offering his condolences on the April 28 terrorist attack in Marrakesh that killed 15 people and injured many more. King Abdullah strongly condemned the criminal act, which contradicts the values and principles of Islam, and reaffirmed the solidarity of the Saudi government and people with Morocco. He expressed sympathy for the families of the deceased and wished the injured a speedy recovery. A similar cable of condolences was sent to King Mohammed by Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz.

EMBASSY EVENTS

Embassy to participate in Passport DC event

The Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington, D.C., will be opening its doors to the public on Saturday, May 14 as part of the annual Passport DC Around the World Embassy Tour. From 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., visitors will have the opportunity to experience Saudi culture through a variety of activities, exhibits and performances. Plans include folkloric dancing, the playing of traditional instruments, a fashion show and a slide show. Guests can get their pictures taken in traditional Saudi clothing, have their hands decorated with henna and receive cards with their names written in Arabic calligraphy. Presents will be available for children. A traditional lunch will be served from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., while Saudi coffee and dates will be available all day. All activities are free of charge.

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APRIL 26, 2011

FOREIGN RELATIONS

King Abdullah receives Egyptian Prime Minister

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz received an Egyptian delegation in Riyadh on April 25 that included Prime Minister Dr. Essam Sharaf, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Faiza Abu Al-Naga, Minister of Finance Dr. Samir Radwan and Minister of Foreign Affairs Nabil Al-Arabi. During the subsequent meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation, developments in the Arab world and other issues of common interest.

On the two-day trip to the Kingdom, the delegation met with several other senior Saudi officials, including Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal. Following these meetings, Prime Minister Sharaf made a statement praising the deep-rooted, historic relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Responding to a question on relations between his country and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, the Prime Minister stressed that the security of the GCC nations is integral to the security of Egypt. He added, "We are tied with the GCC countries by historic relations and interference in their affairs is a red line."

King Abdullah received a number of other Arab officials last week including Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani and Bahraini Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa on April 18 and 19, respectively. On April 22, the Saudi monarch held a meeting with Gen. Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahayyan, Abu Dhabi's Heir Apparent and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

SAUDI ARABIA-U.S. RELATIONS

U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison tours Saudi Arabia

Eastern Province Governor Prince Mohammed bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz received a U.S. business delegation from Minnesota in Dammam on April 24 led by U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison and including U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom James Smith, U.S. Consul General Timothy Pounds and the President and Managing Director of the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council, Edward Burton. During their meeting, the two sides reviewed the strong ties binding Saudi Arabia and the

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United States. Rep. Ellison commended the development experienced by the Kingdom and the Eastern Province.

Moving on to Riyadh, Rep. Ellison was received on April 26 by Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal. During their meeting, which was attended by a number of Saudi and U.S. officials, bilateral relations and other issues of common interest were discussed. Rep. Ellison met the same day with Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdullah bin Ahmed Zainal Ali Reza, with whom he discussed trade and industrial relations between the Kingdom and the U.S., focusing particularly on the promotion of cooperation between the private sectors of both countries.